

**SHEPTON MALLET
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

(including details submitted to me by the Public Health Inspector)

**For the Year Ending
31st December, 1956**

CLERK:

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH:
I. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

A. D. STOCKDALE (to 31st. October 1956).
L. BECKERLEG, D.M.A. (from 1st. November 1956).

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR (to 30th November 1956). :
G. F. HAWKINS, Cert. S.I. Jt. Board, Cert R.S.I. (Meat and Other Foods).
(Mr. G. F. Hawkins also held the appointment of
Surveyor to 30th November 1956.)

May, 1957.

TO THE
SHEPTON MALLET URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to lay before you my Annual Report for the year 1956,

1.—GENERAL STATISTICS.

| | |
|--------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| Area (in acres) ... | 2278 |
| Population (1956) ... | 5250 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses (1956) ... | 1780 |
| Rateable Value, 1st. April, 1956 ... | £53,977 |
| Produce of Penny Rate (estimated) ... | £231 |
| Number of Inhabited Houses is based on the following:— | |
| Dwelling Houses ... | 1656 |
| Banks and Offices with Living Accommodation ... | 6 |
| Shops, etc., with Living Accommodation ... | 75 |
| Club Premises with Living Accommodation ... | 2 |
| Hotels and other Licensed Premises ... | 22 |
| Public Institutions (Hospitals, etc.) ... | 4 |
| Crown Properties ... | 15 |
| Total ... | 1780 |

SOCIAL CONDITIONS.

In addition to shops, offices, building trades and allied trades, the main sources of employment in the town are cider factories (2), breweries (2), shoe-making, glove factories (2), millers, bacon factory and meat products, railways (2), agricultural engineering, research chemists, general engineering (2) garages and motor engineering, dry-cleaning and dye-works, rope works, motor haulage.

There is very little unemployment other than that of a transitory nature.

2.—EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

BIRTHS.

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------|---------|
| Live Births:— | | | | Males | Females |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 | 39 |
| Legitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 42 | 36 |
| Illegitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 | 3 |
| Still Births:— | | | | Males | Females |
| Total ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Legitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 |
| Illegitimate ... | ... | ... | ... | 0 | 0 |

DEATHS.

| | | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|-------|-------|---------|
| | Total | Males | Females |
| Deaths from all causes ... | 53 | 24 | 29 |
| Number of Women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:— | | | |
| (a) From Sepsis ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| (b) From other causes ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Deaths of Infants under One Year of age:— | | | |
| Legitimate, 1, Illegitimate, 0, Total 1. | | | |
| Deaths of Infants under One Week ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| “ “ “ “ from One to Four Weeks ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| “ “ “ “ from One to Six Months ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| “ “ “ “ from Six to Twelve Months ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| Total ... | 1 | | |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| “ “ Whooping Cough (all ages) ... | ... | ... | 0 |
| “ “ Diarrhoea (under two years of age) ... | ... | ... | 0 |

There has not been any excessive mortality during the year.

The total number of deaths occurring in the District was 53 compared with 62 in 1955.

The chief causes of death were:—

| | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| Cancer ... | 15 |
| Heart and Circulatory Diseases ... | 34 |
| Old Age ... | 1 |
| Intra-Cranial Vascular Lesions ... | 6 |

In all “Causes of Death”:—

| | |
|----------------------------------------------------|----|
| Those dying between the ages of 75 and 80 were ... | 17 |
| “ “ “ “ 81 and 85 were ... | 10 |
| “ “ “ “ 86 and 90 were ... | 11 |
| Those dying above the age of 90 were ... | 6 |

A total of 44 or 83.01% of the total Deaths.

3.—NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

| Disease | Total Cases Notified | Cases Admitted to Isolation Hospital | Total Deaths |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------|
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| Scarlet Fever | 6 | 3 | 0 |
| Tuberculosis:—Total | 3 | 0 | 0 |
| (a) Respiratory | 2 | 0 | 0 |
| (b) Non-Respiratory | 1 | 0 | 0 |

The Notification of Infectious Diseases by Medical Practitioners was satisfactory.

4.—OPHTHALMIA NEONATORIIUM.

One case notified. Treated in Hospital. No impairment of sight. Complete recovery.

CAUSES OF SICKNESS

Heart and Circulatory Diseases and Cancer were slightly more in evidence this year.

5.—SUMMARY OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITAL AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE IN THE DISTRICT.

A.—PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME.

- (1) General: There are two Nurses in the District engaged in general district work, who are affiliated to the County Nursing Association.
- (2) For Infectious Diseases: Three cases were admitted to Isolation Hospitals, the remainder were either nursed by their relatives or by nurses obtained from Nursing Homes or Hospitals outside the District.

B.—MIDWIVES.

There are 2 Certified Midwives practising in the District.

C.—CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

There is one Tuberculosis Dispensary in Charlton Road, provided and staffed by the County Council.

D.—HOSPITALS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.

- (1) Tuberculosis: None.
- (2) Fever: None.
- (3) Other: Some unused buildings in the grounds of the former Isolation Hospital have been converted into a Hospital for the aged sick.
The Cubicle block of the former Isolation Hospital has been converted into a maternity Hospital.

There is the District Hospital at Shepton Mallet for the treatment of general medical and surgical cases. There is no Public Assistance Institution, the building having been taken over by the County Council as an Institution for persons suffering from Mental Deficiency.

E.—INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE INFANTS: None.

HOMELESS CHILDREN: Hillworth House, staffed and equipped by the Somerset County Council.

F.—AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

- (1) For Infectious Cases: None.
- (2) For Non-Infectious Cases and Accidents:—Two Motor Ambulances and one sitting case Car are kept at the Ambulance Depot, Shepton Mallet, and in cases of need, additional ambulances are obtainable through the local branch of the B.R.C.S., and also from Wells and Radstock.

G.—SCABIES:—No cases of Scabies have been reported to me.

6.—LABORATORY WORK.

Examinations of bacteriological and pathological specimens are carried out at The Public Health Laboratory, Bath; considerable use of this Laboratory has been made during the year.

A supply of Diphtheria Antitoxin is kept at Messrs. Boots (Chemists), and Miss Watkins (Chemist) Supplies can be obtained from them by Practitioners on the National Health Service Prescription form

7.—PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE LOCAL AUTHORITY.

There is one Sanitary Inspector and Housing and Sanitary Surveyor (a whole-time officer) and myself (a part-time officer). There is one Health Visitor in the District.

8.—WATER SUPPLY.

The public water supply is operated by the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company, and is satisfactory in quality and, except in periods of exceptional drought, in quantity.

The water is not liable to Plumoo-solvent action.

So far as can be ascertained the houses etc., can be divided up as follows:—

Mains supplies direct to houses 1,614; Population 5,140

Mains supplies by Standpipes 34; Population 106.

Houses supplied by wells 8; Population 24.

Estimated total number of houses in District 1,656

Extensions or improvements of supplies during the year were as follows:—

Future proposals are that the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company are expected to consider in the near future the necessity or otherwise of proceeding with the proposal to construct an additional reservoir at Windsor Hill, Downside. Future housing developments, both public and private may necessitate further extensions of the existing mains.

Two industrial premises (a Bacon Factory and a Brewery) have private wells in addition to mains supply, also boring has been carried out and further investigations are in hand at a third premises with a view to supplementing the public supply.

9.—SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

Most of the premises in the Urban District are connected to the public sewers discharging to treatment works at Darshill, but approximately 70 properties in out-lying parts of the area are not connected to the main drainage system.

The new Sewage Disposal Works at Darshill have been commenced and at the end of the year had made good progress towards completion.

10.—CLOSET ACCOMODATION.

Estimated number of dwelling-houses, etc.:—

with W.C.'s 1,626

with Pail Closets 30.

11.—PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The existing arrangements for the collection and disposal of household and trade refuse have been continued. A weekly collection is made at all premises in the District, this work is carried out by Direct Labour, a Ford Thames model 12 cubic yard covered refuse collection vehicle with hydraulic tipping being used.

As regards trade refuse, the Council make a charge, in normal cases, on the basis of 5% of the rateable value of the trade premises and for this payment collect trade refuse on two days per week and on request. In the case of a large shoe factory, special arrangements have been made for the removal and disposal of their trade refuse, the actual cost being recovered from the occupiers of the premises.

The whole of the refuse is disposed of by tipping on the controlled system, at a disused quarry at Winsor Hill, Downside, Shepton Mallet; except that some trade refuse and waste paper are incinerated at the tip.

The collection of waste paper continued throughout the year.

12.—CAMPING SITES.
There are none in the District.

13.—PUBLIC SWIMMING BATHS AND POOL.

There is one Swimming Pool at Eastfield in the Urban District owned by the Council. The water is continually circulated, filtered and chlorinated. The temperature of the water is maintained at about 70 deg. F. (minimum).

The type of purification plant is the Horseley Piggott with a Wallace & Tiernan Automatic Chlorinator.

The turnover period is estimated to be approximately 12 hours. The pool is filled from the mains of the Shepton Mallet Waterworks Company.

The daily number of bathers fluctuates considerably, mainly on account of climatic conditions; the estimated maximum daily load is 400 persons, including a large proportion of children.

14.—HOUSING.

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|------|
| Total number of permanent dwellings in District | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1656 |
| Total number of permanent dwellings owned by Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 378 |

Part 1. The total problem (As per Ministry Circular 55/54):—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) Estimated number of houses unfit for human habitation within the meaning of Section 9 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, and suitable for action under Section 11 or Section 25 of the Housing Act, 1936 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 190 |
| (11) Period in years which the Council think necessary for securing the demolition of all the houses in (1) | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 10 |

Part 2. Orders already made, etc.:—

| | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (111) Number of houses in (1) in clearance areas and already covered by operative clearance or compulsory purchase orders or owned by the Local Authority | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |
| (IV) Number of houses which are already in clearance areas and for which clearance or compulsory purchase orders have been submitted to the Minister but have not yet become operative | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | Nil |

Part 3. Action in the first five years:—

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| (V) Number of houses included in clearance areas still to be made.... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|

| | Houses erected during year | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------------|--|--|--|
| Local Authority | 33 | | | |
| Private Enterprise | 7 | | | |
| Totals | 40 | | | |

Number of Post-War Houses erected from 1.4.45 to 31.12.56:—

By Local Authority 253.

By Private Enterprise 69.

Housing Programme for 1957 (Local Authority). For Slum Clearance 25; for other purposes nil.

(a) Number of temporary units occupied: (I) Prefabs. 6. (II) Huts etc., Nil.

Houses Required:—

To replace houses scheduled for demolition 25.

Total number of applicants for Council Houses at the end of the year 188.

15.—IMPROVEMENT GRANTS MADE UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS 1949-54.

No. of applications and houses dealt with by Local Authority:—

| | (1) Received | | (2) Approved | | (3) Rejected | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|-----------------|---------------|--|--|
| | Aps. | No. of houses | Aps. | No. of houses | Aps. | No. of houses | | |
| 31.7.49— | 12 | 16 | 6 | 7 | 2 | 2 | | |
| 31.12.55 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 7 | | |
| During year | | | | | | | | |
| TOTALS | 14 | 18 | 8 | 9 | 6 | 9 | | |

Note: Number of applications approved in respect of Owner/occupiers 6.

Average cost per dwelling approved: £754

Amount of grant payable by Local Authority 50%

16.—FOOD.

MILK

- (a) No. of Registered Distributors ... 6
- (b) No. of Registered Dairy Premises (other than Dairy Farms) ... 6
- (c) No. of Licensed Dealers of Designated Milk ... 5.
- (d) No. of supplementary licences issued to distributors whose dairy is outside your area ... 2. Issued to one dairyman for (a) T.T. and (b) Pastuerised milks.

Designated Milk Sampling:

| Designation | Samples Taken | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
|-------------------|---------------|--------------|----------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | Nil | — | — |
| Sterilised | Nil | — | — |
| Pasteurised | Nil | — | — |

Biological Sampling: Nil.

ICE CREAM

Number of premises registered for:—

- (a) Manufacture and retail ... 1
- (b) Manufacture only ... Nil
- (c) Retail only ... 16

In practically all cases, supplies of ice cream are obtained in cartons or wrapped from well-known manufacturers.

In addition to registered premises, ice cream is also sold by many restaurants, hotels etc., and at the local Cinema.

17.—SLAUGHTER-HOUSES AND BACON FACTORIES.

None owned or leased by Local Authority

(a) Private slaughter-houses Licensed 1; Operating 1.

(b) Bacon Factories Licensed 1; Operating 1.

There are no slaughter-houses in use where horses are slaughtered for human consumption.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part during year:

| | Cattle Excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|------|--------|
| Number killed (if known) | 429 | 175 | 158 | 1472 | 671 | — |
| Number inspected | " | " | " | 1472 | " | — |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci. Whole carcases condemned | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 103 | 49 | — | 259 | 63 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 24.00 | 28.50 | — | 18.13 | 9.30 | — |
| Tuberculosis only Whole carcases condemned | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | 1 | — |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 12 | 26 | — | — | 29 | — |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis | 3.00 | 17.14 | 0.53 | — | 4.47 | — |
| Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | 2 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Generalised and totally condemned | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Weight of meat condemned (in lbs.) for:— (a) Tuberculosis 5306 lbs. (b) Cysticercosis 10 lbs. (c) Other 3129 lbs. | <p>The total weight of condemned meat and offals amounted to approx. 8,445 lbs.</p> <p>The above particulars are in respect of the only private slaughterhouse operating in the Urban District.</p> | | | | | |

The Council do not undertake meat inspection at the Bacon Factory in their area. The owner-occupiers have therefore instituted a system of initial examination of carcases and offal by their own employees and any diseased or abnormal carcases etc. are detained for detailed inspection by veterinary officers, whose services are paid for entirely by the owner-occupiers of the factory. During the year 1956:—Number of pigs killed 38,748, Whole pigs condemned 132, weight 18,330 lbs., Part pigs condemned 9,065, weight 50,237 lbs.
All presumably affected with tuberculosis.

18.—FOOD PREMISES.

Number of premises registered under Sec. 16. Food and Drugs Act, 1955 22

19.—BYELAWS UNDER SECTION 15 OF THE FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938.

Date Byelaws came into operation—11th December, 1950. No special action taken other than routine inspection of food premises.

PART I OF THE ACT

1.—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.)

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number on Register (3) | Number of | | | M/c line No. (7) |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | | Inspections (4) | Written notices (5) | Occupiers prosecuted (6) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities* | 1 | 34 | — | — | — | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 29 | — | — | — | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority * (excluding out-workers' premises) | 3 | 3 | — | — | — | 3 |
| Total | — | 66 | — | — | — | |

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more "cases".)

| Particulars (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7) | M/c line No. (8) |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| | | Found (3) | Remedied (4) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) | By H.M. Inspector (6) | | |
| Want of cleanliness (S.1) | 4 | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Overcrowding (S.2) | 5 | — | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Unreasonable temperature (S.3) | 6 | — | — | — | — | — | 6 |
| Inadequate ventilation (S.4) | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | 7 |
| Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6) | 8 | — | — | — | — | — | 8 |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)— | | | | | | | |
| (a) Insufficient | 9 | — | — | — | — | — | 9 |
| (b) Unsuitable or defective | 10 | — | — | — | — | — | 10 |
| (c) Not separate for sexes | 11 | — | — | — | — | — | 11 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork) | 12 | — | — | — | — | — | 12 |
| TOTAL | | — | — | — | — | — | |

PART VIII OF THE ACT
OUTWORK

| Nature of Work (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Section 110 | | | Section 111 | | | M/c line No. (9) |
|---------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|
| | | No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3) | No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4) | No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5) | No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6) | Notices served (7) | Prosecutions (8) | |
| Wearing apparel { Making, etc ... and Cleaning ... washing | 13 | 7 | — | — | — | — | — | 13 |
| | 14 | — | — | — | — | — | — | 14 |

21.—KNACKERS YARDS.

Number registered in district Nil

22.—FOOD POISONING OUTBREAKS.

None

I have the honour to be, Ladies and Gentlemen, ...

Your obedient servant,

T. E. COULSON, M.D., F.R.C.S.E.

Medical Officer of Health.